THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The objectives of the Mission have not been finalised.

(c) The exact time frame cannot be set.

Education for female working children

2140. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that over 88 percent of girl children engaged in hazardous domestic and small scale industries, such as match sticks, crackers, agarbatti, glass, bidi, etc., are illiterate;

(b) if so, whether Government have drawn any scheme to make them literate;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and how Government propose to make them literate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SMT.) RITA VERMA]: (a) Separate data is not maintained by this Ministry about the literacy status of girl children engaged in specific industries.

(b) to (d) To provide education to child labour, the Ministry of Labour has been running a programme called the National Child Labour Project (NCLP). This Ministry has also launched Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, a national level programme for Universal Elementary Education which aims to provide quality elementary education to all children in the 6—14 age group across the country by the year 2010. The Education Guarantee Scheme & Alternative and Innovative Education (EGS & AIE), a component of SSA with effect from the Tenth Plan, also provides strategies for child labour and adolescent girls to provide life oriented and gender sensitive education.

Flesh trade among Banchhra women of M.P.

†2141. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) the reasons for the on-going flesh trade by the women of Banchhra caste in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether any action plan has been formulated to distract them from this profession;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of AIDS afflicted women patients of this caste and the preventive action taken in respect thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Trafficking is prevalent as a social evil in some families of Banchhra caste in Madhya Pradesh.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Government of Madhya Pradesh has already been implementing a scheme called Jabali through voluntary organisations for taking up activities for the welfare and development of women and child victims of commercial sexual exploitation so as to eliminate commercial sexual exploitation. The scheme is mainly targeted at the women and children in those castes / tribes where there is social acceptance and even collusion by the male members with the commercial sexual exploitation of their women. The scheme has five components:

(i) running of Boarding Schools for children or women victims;

(ii) setting up shelter / protective homes for young girls;

(iii) providing women victims benefits for income generation and economic rehabilitation;

(iv) creation of public awareness through information, education and publicity; and

(v) health check ups and treatment.

At present 6 voluntary organisations in the State are engaged in running shelter/protective homes providing facilities to 500 children. In addition the State Government has formulated a Plan of Action with the objective to mainstream and reintegrate the victims of commercial sexual exploitation through strategies grouped under awareness generation and social mobilisation, health care services including HIV AIDS, education alternative education system through ashrams, etc.

(d) The details of AIDS afflicted women caste-wise are not maintained. However, the total number of AIDS patients including men and women in the State of Madhya Pradesh as on 28.2.2002 is 759. Government has launched a comprehensive AIDS prevention and control programme, which is a 100% centrally sponsored scheme being implemented in all States / UTs including Madhya Pradesh through States / UTs AIDS Control Societies. The main components of the Programme consist of:

(i) reducing the spread of HIV in groups at high risk by identification of target populations and providing counselling, condom promotion, and treatment of sexually transmitted infections;

(ii) preventive intervention for the general population by information, education and communication (IEC) and awareness campaign, provision of voluntary testing and counselling, sale blood transfusion services and prevention of occupational exposure;

(iii) providing financial assistance for opportunistic infections, home and community based care;

(iv) strengthening effectiveness and technical, managerial financial sustainability at national, state and municipal levels;

(v) promoting collaboration amongst public, private and coluntary sector.

Stay on education policy

2142. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Supreme Court has stayed the new education policy of Government;

(b) whether the Supreme Court has also stalled the NCERT syllabus because of Government's failure to consult the Central Advisory Board on Education; if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the existing work on syllabus revision and printing of books would come to a halt;